A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF HUMAN PREDICAMENT AS REFLECTED IN THE NOVELS: HEART OF DARKNESS,THESOUND AND THE FURY AND A TIGER FOR MALGUDI

Introduction

Man & Literature

Man in at the centre of literature perhaps it has given immortality to all imaginative literature. The writers of imaginative literature have portrayed man's constant yearning for fulfillment of dream that could never be realized.The elusiveness of human dreams, the mystery of human nature, their humanity, their sorrow, loneliness, alienation because of a broken dream, man's helplessness against nature the state of isolation where man constantly straggle to live meaningfully in his own way, their search for something etc.

The human condition and the human predicament is no less than the kingdom of nature and it is the province of exploration for the writers. The musing of the writers on the mysteries of human existence ultimately have the aim of enlarging our understanding of human character and soul. These musingsalso have the effect of heightening the human struggles to find the true moral identity of human being. The man wants to be a saint and also wants to be a devil. The man and his physical surrounding merge to project a kind of mystery.The creative artist renders the power of evilin

un alleviating ways, even as he sees man's moral poverty in an inescapable reality.

Depiction of human predicament in Literature

The advancement in science and technology,specially in information technology, huge industrialization has destroyed the national boundaries. Man is no longer rooted in his unique national tractition and has lost his sense of belongingness, viewed against a backdrop of time, not eternity.Man himself a partial of time seems to be drawing dissolving into nothingness.Man is unable to relate his life to a pattern of belief, to some impersonal system or to a comprehensible concept of time, is obsessed with the idea of futility.Futility, in terms of significance, loneliness is interrelated feelings. The idea of man's banishment from the centre to the periphery of life suggests that man is nothing but a minor detail in a vast black picture.

Another important factorbehind man's isolation and dismemberment is the contemporary age in the decline of religion. For centuries religion has been the greatest source of strength and consolation to man. According to ThomasWolfein the *Literature,*the central purpose of Christ's life is 'todestroy the lives of loneliness and to establish here on earth the life of love' (1958:163). The unity that binds us all together that makes the earth a family, and all people are the offspring's of the

God in the sense of belongingness. The Theo-logical system that organizes life in a great unity of belief and communion is not available to modern man who tries to find a way out of his isolation.

The loss of faith is one of the important components of human predicament in the modern age.It is not only of religion origins but it is the outcome of lack of human trust in human sense and the reasoning ability.Since man cannot trust his senses and his reason it is inevitable that he can no longer trust that God is the ruler of universe. This loss of certainty has become decisive for the whole development of modern morality. Individual life becomes moral and the wordless stable, less permanent, and hence less relied upon than it had been during the Christian era.

The most certain things about man are the general conditions of human existence; birth and death, nationality and morality. If left to themselves, human affairs can only follow the low of mortality, which is the most certain the only reliable law of a life spent between birth and death. Faced with the question ‘what is the meaning of life?’ one comes up with two integral queries.‘Is life worth living?’ and ‘what is the aim of life?’ These two questionsarise from the inevitability of death.

Confined within the social framework man tries to answer the question about the meaning of life, about the values of life and why one

should not be allowed to put an end to suffering at will. In his aattempts to answer these questions he writes his own story.It is the story of a person who is aloof in his own family and chosen loneliness to reach his further goal. This story is bound to raise questions about the human predicament and the role played by social forces in bringing about this loneliness.

The researcher has chosen three novels to illustrate this human predicament of Joseph Conrad's*Heart of Darkness*, William Falkner's *The Sound and the Fury* and R.K. Narayan's*A Tiger for Malgudi*. The three writers have made use of these forces and characters to express not merely the human predicament corresponding to their own respective culture but the universal human condition in the modern society within this framework and in accordance with these ideas. The three novels that are the object of this study are going to be analyzed.The researcher also intends to make comparative study of these three novels. The researcher will study the social environment that has conditioned the lives of the characters under study, how each character has responded to the social circumstances surrounding him.The role played by social condition is molding the characters that these three autobiographical narratives anepisteme of universal truth become possible in the nineteenth century with the rise of idealism and the consequent presenting of the individual

consciousness. The researcher will also study the fictional techniques employed by these writers.The first novel which will be analyzed for the present study in Josephcanard's*Heart of Darkness*.

Heart of Darkness

Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* is a psychological and geographical journey Marlow travels from Brussels to Congogeographicallyand he travels from ego to the Id. Psychologically, Marlow's findings at Congo bring him knowledge that replaces his ignorance and also it brings him experiencethat replaces his innocence. JosephConrad's novel reflects the 20th century man's yearn for accumulation of capital at the loss of the self. The anti heroKurt'z represents that dark side of human soul.The novel is psychological probing into the state of mind of the principal character. The novelist has depicted changing stage, changing situation and it's impact on the state of mind of the principal character.

The Sound and the Fury

The second novel is WilliamFaulkner's, *The Sound and the Fury*, which is the widely influential work of literature. Faulkner has been praised for his ability to recreate the thought process of the human mind.The novel is also viewed as an essential development in the stream

of consciousness, a literary technique.The novel has achieved great critical success and a prominent place among the greatest of American novels.It played a role in WilliamFaulkner's receiving the 1949 Nobel Prize in literature *ATiger for Malgudi*.

A Tiger for Malgudi

The third novel to be studied is R.K. Narayan's*A Tiger for Malgudi*. It is published by toy of the prominent Indian writers writing in English in 1983.It is a story told by the tiger in the first person. It is a story of deep attachment between the Tigerand the monk, whocares for the Tiger. The Tigerrecounts his story of captures by a circus owner and his eventual escape. He lived freely in the wild jungles of India in his youth. He mates and has a litter with a tigress, and raises a litter until one day he finds that hunters have captured and killed his entire family. He expects revenge by attacking and eating the cattle of hereby villages, but is captured by poachers and sent to a circus in Malgudi, where the captain starves him and forces to be tricks in the circus. He lives in captivity successfully for some time, but eventually his wild instincts overcome him and he kills the captain. After an extended rampage in the town, he is recaptured by a monk, withwhom he passes the rest of his life on the hills.

The first chapter of the present study will be introductory in which the researcher will study the human conditions, predicament, social

environment, his ambitions, his dreams, his meaning and significance of life as expressed by the three writers in their three novels, selected for the present study.

The researcher will devote the second chapter for the thematic study of the three novels selected for the present study.

In the third chapter of the present work the researcher will focus onthe fictional techniques used by the three writers in the three novels selected for the present study.

The fourth chapter will be of comparative study of the three novels in reaction to their thematic concerns and fictional techniques.

The last chapter will be of conclusion, where the researcher will note his findings and the concluding remarks.

Review of relevant literature

The original text of all the three novels, selected for the present research will be studied. The critical works / writings with deep insight on these three novels selected for the study will be the chief secondary source for the present study.

Hypothesis of the study

The human condition and his predicament is the chief thematic concern common in the three novels selected for the present study.

The novelists have made different fictional techniques for the exploration of characters, themes and plot of their novels.

Aims and Objectives

1) Thematic study of the three novels, *Heart of Darkness*, *The Sound and the Fury* and A *Tiger for Malgudi*.
2) To study the character portrayal of characters.
3) To study the fictional techniques used by the novelists.
4) To study the human condition and the human predicamentdetected in the three novels.
5) To make the comparative study of the three novels selected for present study in relation to their themes and the fictional techniques.

Scope and Limitation

In the present work the researcher will study the human condition and predicament depicted in the three novels selected for the study. The study is limited to the three novels only. The three novels will be studied only from the view point of themes and fictional techniques.

The comparative study and the conclusion drawn will be limited to the three novels selected for the present study.

Tentative Chapter Scheme

1) Introduction

   a. Human condition and predicament depicted in the novels.

   b. Introductory study of the three novels with the novelists.

2) Colonialism, imperialism and human Predicament in Heart of Darkness.

3) Suffering, alienation and human predicament in The Sound and the fury.

4) Wildlife, social environment and human predicament in A Tiger for Malgudi.

5) Comparative study of the three novels.

6) Conclusion.

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